

Message Text

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FFROM USNAO DATED DECEMBER 8, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS, MOSCOW
AND MBFR VIENNA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE, CINCLANT, CINCUSAFE,
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SHAPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 1976: AGENDA ITEM III,
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

SUMMARY: US INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING DURING DECEMBER 7 DPC
MINISTERIAL SESSION RECEIVED AN APPRECIATIVE RESPONSE.
MINISTERS ENDORSED SYG LUNS' PROJECT OF DEVELOPING A NATO
BRIEFING DRAWING ON INFORMATION FROM ALL ALLIES TO BE
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AVAILABLE TO HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ALLIED CAPITALS.
SECRETARY RUMSFELD POINTED OUT THE WEIGHT AND MOMENTUM OF
SOVIET EFFORT OVER MANY YEARS AND NOTED THAT THERE IS A
PROBLEM, BUT THAT IT IS A MANAGEABLE ONE-- IF WE CHOOSE TO
MANAGE IT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT DECEMBER 7 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, U.S. DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR COLLECTIONS OPERATIONS, US DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, PRESENTED AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING. IN INTRODUCING THIS BRIEFING, SECRETARY RUMSFELD SAID THAT IT GAVE THE BEST PICTURE AVAILABLE AS TO WHAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN DOING AND ARE NOW DOING. WHILE WE COULD NOT ESTABLISH PRECISE SOVIET INTENTIONS FROM INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, WE COULD ESTABLISH THE SCOPE AND INTENSITY OF THEIR EFFORT AND REASONABLY PROJECT WHERE IT WOULD CARRY THEM. FROM THIS, REASONABLE PEOPLE COULD DRAW JUDGEMENTS AT LEAST AS TO THE TYPES OF OPTIONS WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO A NATION WITH THOSE CAPABILITIES. SECRETARY RUMSFELD NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION PRESENTED WAS ESSENTIALLY THE INFORMATION WHICH LED USG TO THE COCLUSION THAT THE TRENDS BETWEEN WESTERN AND SOVIET MILITARY EFFORTS, WHICH HAD BEEN CONTINUING OVER A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME, WERE ADVERSE TO THE WEST. THIS HAD LED TO THE STEPS THE PRSIDENT HAD TAKEN TO ATTEMPT TO REVERSE THOSE TRENDS.

2. MR. HUGHES BRIEFING, ENTITLED "SOVIET MILITARY TRENDS AND CAPABILITIES," PROVIDED, FOR EACH OF FOUR SETS OF SOVIET CAPABILITIES (STRATEGIC FORCES, GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES, R&D, AND CIVIL DEFENSE) A PICTURE OF THEIR STATUS TODAY, MAJOR TRENDS AND A PROJECTION OF TRENDS TO 1982.

A. STRATEGIC FORCES. MR. HUGES REVIEWED THE NEW FAMILY OF ICBMS, THE READINESS OF THE SS-X-20 IRBM FOR DEPLOYMENT, SOVIET SSBN FORCE GROWTH AND SOVIET STRATEGIC AIR FORCES.

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B. GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES. HUGHES FOCUSED ON THE INCREASING MOBILITY OF SOVIET LAND FORCES, THE INCREASINGLY OFFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE SOVIET TACTICAL AIR FORCES, AND SOVIET NAVAL DEVELOPMENTS.

C. R&D. HUGHES DESCRIBED THE STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE SOVIET EFFORT TO UPGRADE TECHNOLOGY.

D. CIVIL DEFENSE. HUGHES NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA, THEIR PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE BETTER THAN WE HAD THOUGHT AND MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO INFLUENCE SOVIET PERCEPTIONS ON POSSIBLE OUTCOMES IN A NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF MR. HUGHES' BRIEFING, SECRETARY GENERAL LUNDS PRONOUNCED IT "INCREDIBLY IMPRESSIVE." HE SAID THAT IT REVEALED THE FEROCIOUS DETERMINATION OF THE USSR TO

ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY, WITH FAR SMALLER RESOURCES THAN WERE AVAILABLE TO THE WEST, OR EVEN TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS, IN LUNS' VIEW, WAS ALL THE MORE WORRYING.

4. MINISTERS' COMMENTS WERE UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE. THEIR QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO MAKE INFORMATION ON THE TRENDS IN SOVIET FORCE GROWTH AND CONTENT MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN NATO CAPITALS AND TO PUBLICS IN GENERAL. SPECIFICALLY, PAULS (FRG PERMREP) SAID THAT SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TO FINANCE MINISTERS AND TO PARLIMENTARIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE BUDGETS. LUNS NOTED THAT HE AND SEVERAL PERMREPS HAD SUGGESTED THAT A NATO BRIEFING ALONG THESE LINES SHOULD BE PREPARED, AND THAT THE CMC HAD ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL.

5. SYG LUNS ASKED MR. HUGHES HOW COMPREHENSIVE US INFORMATION ON THE SS-X-20 WAS. HUGHES REPLIED THAT IT WAS
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NOT AS GOOD AS IT HAD BEEN WHEN WE STILL HAD COLLECTION SYSTEMS AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTOR.

6. IN SUMMING UP, SECRETARY RUMSFELD NOTED THAT THE BRIEFING MINISTERS HAD JUST RECEIVED WAS A US BRIEFING. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING POSSIBLE BRIEFINGS IN CAPITALS: THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND MANY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO PREPARE A SUITABLE NATO BRIEFING, COMPILING MATERIAL FROM A NUMBER OF NATIONS, TO DELIVER IN ALLIED CAPITALS. THE US HAD NO PLANS TO GIVE BRIEFINGS IN CAPITALS. THE PROPOSED NATO BRIEFINGS WOULD THEREFORE REFLECT NATO- JUDGEMENTS CONCERNING THE THREAT.

7. REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION LEVEL OF THE BRIEFING (WHICH CANADIAN MOD DANSON HAD ALLUDED TO EARLIER), SECRETARY RUMSFELD NOTED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS A TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD INFORMATION AND THE DESIRE, PARTICULARLY IN FREE COUNTRIES, TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE APPRISED. THE FACT WAS THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN THE BRIEFING WHICH WAS NOT ALREADY KNOWN BY THE MNCS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ALLIED SERVICES, AND, INDEED, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. SIMILAR TYPES OF INFORMATION WERE IN THE JANUARY 1976 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO THE CONGRESS, WHICH CONTAINED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION, ALL OF WHICH WAS UNCLASSIFIED.

8. THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE BRIEFING, SECRETARY RUMSFELD SAID, WAS NOT ITS DATA ON THE NUMBER OF TANK TRANSPORTERS OR SQUARE FEET OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY BUT THAT:

A) IT GAVE ONE A SENSE OF THE WEIGHT AND MOMENTUM OF SOVIET EFFORT. THE SOVIETS WERE NOT DOING ALL THIS " FOR THE HELL OF IT." THEY HAD BEEN BUSY STEADILY FOR MANY YEARS.

B) IT SUMMARIZED THE SUBSTANCE AND GROWING MILITARY
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POWER OF THE USSR. AS HE HAD SAID IN JUNE, THE RUSSIANS ARE NOT TEN FEET TALL,BUT THEY USED TO BE FIVE FEET; NOW THEY'RE FIVE FEET NINE AND GROWING.
THE CMC HAD GIVEN A FINE PRESENTATION EARLIER IN THE MORNING. SACEUR HAD GIVEN AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION A WEEK AGO, EXPRESSING HIS JUDGMENT. THE FACTS ARE KNOWN.

9.THE BRIEFING THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN HERE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS A MANAGEABLE ONE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE MANAGED. THE VALUE OF THE TYPE OF EVIDENCE THAT HAD BEEN PRESENTED WAS OBVIOUS; IT REINFORCED THE NUMBERS. WE HAVE SEEN SOMETHING TAKING PLACE: A STEADY INCREASE IN SOVIET NUMBERS, IN THE RATE AT WHICH NEW CAPABILITIES ARE INTRODUCED, IN THE QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE CAPABILITIES, AND IN THE SOPHISTICATION OF SOVIET EFFORT AND THE SCOPE OF THEIR INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES TO EXTEND THAT EFFORT FURTHER. THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT LAGGED IN ITS DEFENSE EFFORT BECUASE OF EITHER THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OR OURS; INSTEAD, THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN PURPOSEFUL AND BUSY.

10. SECRETARY RUMSFELD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MINISTERS WOULD GO AWAY WITH THE SENSE THAT THE SENSE THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S, CMC'S, AND MNCS' STATEMENTS CONTAINED A GREAT DEAL OF SUBSTANCE. THE BRIEFING HAD SHOWN THAT "THERE ARE REAL, LIVE PEOPLE DOING THOSE THINGS." IT HAD SHOWN, SECRETARY RUMSFELD REITERATED, THAT WE HAVE A PROBLEM AND THAT THE PROBLEM IS A MANAGEABLE ONE-- BUT ONLY IF WE MANAGE IT. STRAUZ-HUPE UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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